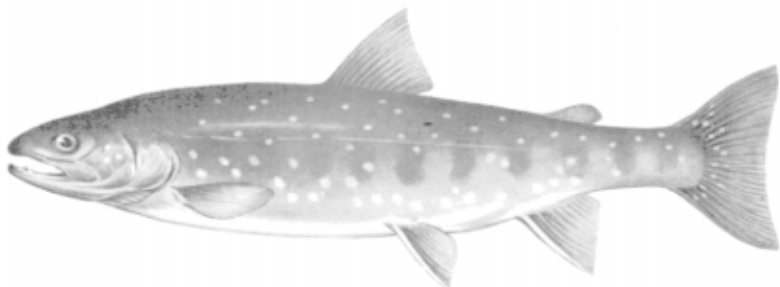


DOLLY VARDEN TROUT

Salvelinus malma



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The back and sides are olive green or muddy gray, shading to white on the belly.

The body has scattered pale yellow or pinkish-yellow spots. There are no black spots or wavy lines on the body or fins.

Small red spots are present on the lower sides. These are frequently indistinct.

The fins are plain and unmarked except for a few light spots on the base of the caudal fin rays.

DISTRIBUTION IN CALIFORNIA

The McCloud River below the lower falls and the reservoirs connected with it are the only waters in California in which this species is found. The Dolly Varden is rather widely distributed in the Pacific drainages of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, British Columbia, and Alaska.

INTERESTING FACTS

Perhaps the most interesting thing about the “dolly” is that in California it lives only in the McCloud River. There have been unverified reports of its occurrence in both the Sacramento and Pit rivers, in the same drainage, but at the present time at least it appears that this, our only native char, is restricted to the McCloud.

The way the Dolly Varden got its name is also of some interest. Though the fish is widely spread to the north of California the name originated here. In a publication by Evermann and Bryant in 1919, it is stated that: “When this fish was taken by scientists in the McCloud River, the resemblance to a dress goods with spots called Dolly Varden, and which was then the rage, led to its being given this name by the lady members of the party, and ‘Dolly Varden’ it has been ever since.

This trout was originally described in 1792 by Johann Walbaum from fish caught in Kamchatka, and called *malma*, a vernacular name in Kamchatka.